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April 6620
Paul Baker <paulbaker@utah.gov>

Fwd: Utah tar sands

1 message

Dana Dean <danadean@utah.gov>
To: Paul Baker <paulbaker@utah.gov>

Mon, May 11, 2015 at 9:30 PM

Dana Dean, P.E.
Associate Director - Mining
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

ogm.utah.gov

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Kathy Pope" <kathyepope@gmail.com>
Date: May 11, 2015 6:54 PM
Subject: Utah tar sands
To: <danadean@utah.gov>
Cc:

Dear Ms. Dean,

This is a PROTEST of the tentative decision of the UTAH Division of Oil Gas & Mining (DOGM) to approve a Canadian Corporation's (U.S. Oil Sands or USOS) Significant Revision to the Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations (NOI) for the PR Spring Mine a proposed open pit tar sand mine on state land in eastern Utah including on lands within the Uncompahgre Ute Indian Reservation Boundaries.

I protest your tentative approval because the expanded tar sand strip mine operations lack a construction permit, a water pollution discharge permit, a storm water pollution control permit, or any other environmental control permits at all on the impacted Indian Lands in Utah. This is Environmental Racism and violates controlling federal and state law to which the state is subject including the Clean Water Act, the RCRA, the CAA, among others.

I also protest because the new proposed strip mine pit locations will likely pollute the local springs near the PR Spring Strip mine as well as the groundwater of the Uinta Basin and the surface water of the Green & Colorado Rivers and create water right conflicts with Native Americans downstream.

I further protest your tentative approval because tar sands are one of the most destructive forms of energy in terms of greenhouse gases. Production of oil from tar sands bitumen produces three times the greenhouse gas pollution of conventional oil production. The climate impacts of those greenhouse gases will further exacerbate Utah's water problems.

Further I protest because your April 7, 2015 DOGM Notice Of Tentative Decision To Approve (DOGM Notice or 'the Notice') failed to reasonably describe the USOS mine plan revision tentatively approved. Specifically:

- 1.) The Notice fails anywhere to identify mineral being mined;
- 2.) The Notice fails to disclose that the mine mine size will increase by a significant amount, 50%!
- 3.) The Notice fails to disclose that the tar pits size is approximately tripled under the revision!

This DOGM April 7th Notice stated that the intent of the change is to "reduce the amount of overburden and interburden storage areas to better facilitate concurrent reclamation." This statement in the Notice mislead the public and defeated the purposes of the Notice law. I protest the DOGM Notice is deficient under the code and the

Constitution because it hides the actual intent: – expanding the tar strip-mine by 50-300%.

I protest that the UTAH Division of Oil Gas & Mining should issue a revised Notice of Tentative Decision to Approve with an accurate disclosure of the revision being considered and hold a hearing on the issues raised in this protest and deny the permit based upon the above-stated, anticipated impacts to water and air quality, and in the interest of environmental justice.

I look forward to your response, thank you for listening to my concerns.

Kathy E Pope
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Salt Lake City, UT 84103